KAVERI SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER

English — Class IX · Set B

Time: 90 minutes *Maximum Marks: 50*

General Instructions: (i) This paper is divided into four sections — A: Reading, B: Writing, C: Grammar, D: Literature. (ii) All questions are compulsory unless a choice is indicated. (iii) Marks for each question are given alongside it.

Section A — Reading Skills (10 marks)

Read the following passage carefully.

Ramesh Lohar has repaired shoes on the same street corner for thirty-two years, seated beneath a faded blue umbrella that has outlived three monsoons. Machines now stitch soles in factories within minutes, yet customers still walk past two shopping malls to reach his small wooden stool.

‘A machine sews a shoe,’ he says, tapping a nail into place, ‘but it does not notice that your left foot walks differently from your right.’ His regular customers agree — they bring shoes that no factory would bother fixing, trusting that Ramesh will somehow find a way.

Business is slower than it once was. His own son works in a mobile phone shop nearby and has no interest in learning the trade. Ramesh does not resent this; he simply hopes someone, someday, will want to learn what his hands already know. Until then, he arrives every morning at seven, unrolls his tools across a cloth, and waits — not just for customers, but for the quiet satisfaction of noticing what others overlook.

Answer the following questions:

1. How long has Ramesh Lohar worked at the same street corner? *[1 mark]*

2. Why do customers still visit him despite two nearby shopping malls? *[1 mark]*

3. Explain what Ramesh means when he says a machine “does not notice that your left foot walks differently from your right.” *[2 marks]*

4. Why does Ramesh's son show no interest in learning his trade? What does this suggest about changing attitudes to traditional work? *[2 marks]*

5. Find a word in paragraph 3 that means the same as ‘annoyed or bitter about something’. *[2 marks]*

6. In your opinion, should traditional skills like Ramesh's be actively preserved? Give one reason from the passage and one of your own. *[2 marks]*

Section B — Writing Skills (10 marks)

Attempt any ONE of the following:

(a) Formal Letter (100–120 words) Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper expressing concern about the disappearance of traditional trades in your town, and suggesting one way the community could help.

(b) Short Story (100–120 words) Write a short story beginning with the line: ‘The old workshop had been silent for years, until one morning...’

Section C — Grammar (10 marks)

1. Fill in the blank with the correct modal verb: “You ___ wear safety gloves while using these tools.” (necessity) *[2 marks]*

2. Change into reported speech: The customer asked, “Can you repair this shoe by tomorrow?” *[2 marks]*

3. Fill in the correct prepositions: “He has worked ___ this corner ___ over thirty years.” *[2 marks]*

4. Identify the sentence type: “What excellent craftsmanship this is!” *[2 marks]*

5. Complete the phrasal verb meaning ‘to continue’: “He decided to ___ the family trade despite the challenges.” *[2 marks]*

Section D — Literature (based on Kaveri) (20 marks)

Answer any FOUR of the following in 20–30 words each: [2 marks each]

1. What lesson about ageing and memory does ‘Vitamin-M’ offer the reader?

2. How does the interview format used in ‘The World of Limitless Possibilities’ make Dr Deepa Malik's story more powerful?

3. What is the central conflict in the play ‘Twin Melodies,’ and how is it resolved?

4. According to the letter ‘Follow That Dream,’ what must a person be willing to do to achieve a world-class standard?

5. What does the poem ‘Words’ suggest about the value of sincerity in speech?

Answer any TWO of the following in 80–100 words each: [6 marks each]

1. Discuss how ‘Carrier of Words’ portrays the emotional significance of a postal worker's job in an age of instant communication.

2. ‘Twin Melodies’ shows that tradition and innovation need not be enemies. Discuss with reference to the play.

3. Based on ‘Follow That Dream’ and ‘Believe in Yourself,’ what advice would you give a friend who is afraid to pursue an ambitious goal?

Marking Scheme & Model Answers — Set B

Section A: Reading

1. *How long has Ramesh Lohar worked at the same street corner?* *[1 mark]*

Answer: Thirty-two years.

2. *Why do customers still visit him despite two nearby shopping malls?* *[1 mark]*

Answer: They trust him to fix shoes that a factory would not bother repairing, and value his personal attention and skill.

3. *Explain what Ramesh means when he says a machine "does not notice that your left foot walks differently from your right."* *[2 marks]*

Answer: He means that mass production treats every shoe identically, while a skilled human craftsman notices small, individual details a machine would overlook — highlighting the personal care behind his work.

4. *Why does Ramesh's son show no interest in learning his trade? What does this suggest about changing attitudes to traditional work?* *[2 marks]*

Answer: The son prefers working in a mobile phone shop, likely seen as more modern or better-paying; this suggests younger generations are moving away from traditional trades toward newer, more fashionable occupations.

5. *Find a word in paragraph 3 that means the same as 'annoyed or bitter about something'.* *[2 marks]*

Answer: resent

6. *In your opinion, should traditional skills like Ramesh's be actively preserved? Give one reason from the passage and one of your own.* *[2 marks]*

Answer: Sample: Yes — the passage shows such skills offer a personal quality and attentiveness that mass production cannot match; a personal reason (e.g. preserving traditional skills protects livelihoods and cultural heritage) should also be credited.

Section B: Writing — Model Answers

(a) Formal Letter (100–120 words)

45, Lake View Road
Delhi
14 August 2026

The Editor
Daily Herald
Delhi

Subject: Preserving Traditional Trades in Our Town

Sir/Madam,

Through your esteemed newspaper, I wish to draw attention to the steady disappearance of traditional trades such as cobblers, tailors, and craftsmen in our town, as younger generations increasingly move toward modern occupations. While progress is welcome, these skills carry both cultural value and practical usefulness that should not be lost entirely.

I suggest that our local municipal council consider organising an annual 'Traditional Skills Fair', where such craftsmen could demonstrate and even teach their trade to interested young people. This would generate income for artisans while keeping valuable knowledge alive.

I hope this suggestion finds support among your readers.

Yours truly,
R. Sharma

(b) Short Story (100–120 words)

The old workshop had been silent for years, until one morning, a bicycle bell rang sharply at its rusted shutter. A boy, no older than twelve, peered inside at the dust-covered tools. ‘My grandfather used to work here,’ he said to no one in particular, running a finger along an old workbench. He returned the next day with a broom, and the day after with an oiled rag for the machines. By the end of the month, the shutter stayed open past sunset, and the smell of leather and polish drifted onto the street once more — not from a memory this time, but from his own two hands.

Section C: Grammar

1. *Fill in the blank with the correct modal verb: “You ___ wear safety gloves while using these tools.” (necessity)*

Answer: **must**

2. *Change into reported speech: The customer asked, “Can you repair this shoe by tomorrow?”*

Answer: **The customer asked if he could repair that shoe by the next day.**

3. *Fill in the correct prepositions: “He has worked ___ this corner ___ over thirty years.”*

Answer: **at; for**

4. *Identify the sentence type: “What excellent craftsmanship this is!”*

Answer: **Exclamatory**

5. *Complete the phrasal verb meaning ‘to continue’: “He decided to ___ the family trade despite the challenges.”*

Answer: **carry on**

Section D: Literature

Short Answers

1. *What lesson about ageing and memory does ‘Vitamin-M’ offer the reader?*

Answer: It suggests that memory loss in old age deserves patience and empathy rather than frustration, and that family bonds matter more than ‘fixing’ ageing.

2. *How does the interview format used in ‘The World of Limitless Possibilities’ make Dr Deepa Malik's story more powerful?*

Answer: Hearing her own words directly makes her conviction and resilience feel authentic and personal, more persuasive than a third-person account of her achievements.

3. *What is the central conflict in the play ‘Twin Melodies,’ and how is it resolved?*

Answer: Shruti's wish to join a fusion music group conflicts with her father's belief in strict classical tradition; the conflict is resolved when he comes to trust and support her choice.

4. *According to the letter ‘Follow That Dream,’ what must a person be willing to do to achieve a world-class standard?*

Answer: They must singularly and intensively pursue their goal for years, accepting the effort, sacrifice, and cost involved.

5. *What does the poem ‘Words’ suggest about the value of sincerity in speech?*

Answer: It suggests that words only hold real value when they are sincere and heartfelt, not merely well-phrased.

Long Answers

1. *Discuss how ‘Carrier of Words’ portrays the emotional significance of a postal worker's job in an age of instant communication.*

Answer: The article shows Khetaram crossing harsh desert terrain to deliver mail by hand, a task technology has largely replaced elsewhere. Yet villagers welcome him with genuine warmth, showing that his work carries more than information — it carries human connection,

trust, and care. The article suggests that in valuing speed, modern communication risks losing the personal meaning that a slower, human effort like Khetaram's still provides.

2. *'Twin Melodies' shows that tradition and innovation need not be enemies. Discuss with reference to the play.*

Answer: Initially, Guru Nabin Sharma sees Shruti's interest in fusion music as a threat to classical tradition, urging her to abandon it. However, as the play progresses, his attitude shifts, and he comes to trust and support her. This resolution suggests tradition can coexist with innovation — that respecting the old does not require rejecting the new, and that the two can, quite literally, play in harmony.

3. *Based on 'Follow That Dream' and 'Believe in Yourself,' what advice would you give a friend who is afraid to pursue an ambitious goal?*

Answer: Drawing on both texts, I would advise my friend to honestly 'count the cost' first — understanding the effort and sacrifice required — but not let fear alone stop them, since both texts suggest that courage and sustained effort, not just talent, are what ultimately make a dream achievable.